

## REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request that the subject application be preliminarily amended as provided in the foregoing amendment prior to calculation of the filing fees. Applicants also respectfully request the Examiner to consider the foregoing amended claims.


New claims 23-31 are pending in this application and correspond to the claims of Group II of the restriction imposed by the Office Action dated September 6, 2001 in the parent application. Claims 1-22 have been cancelled. No new matter has been introduced by virtue of the instant claim amendments. For instance, support for the amended claims appears throughout the specification and claims as originally filed.

Although it is not believed that any additional fees are needed to consider this submission, the Examiner is hereby authorized to charge our deposit account no. 04-1105 should any fee be deemed necessary.

It is believed the application is in condition for immediate allowance, which action is earnestly solicited.

Date: March 1, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

  
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